

SIAC, Special Education Subcommittee meeting
Tuesday, November 12, 2013
10:00am-12noon
STAR NET Region II
2626 S. Clearbrook Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 60005
Room A

Dial-in 888-494-4032
Access Code 5880611393
Minutes

In Person: Karen Berman, Cerathel Burnett, Angelica Flores, Evelyn Green, Chelsea Guillen, Beth Knight, Ann Kremer, Bernie Laumann, Jeanette McCollum, Bea Nichols, Pam Reising-Rechner, Kathy Slattery, Granada Williams

On the phone: Michele Carmicheal, Eileen DeRoze, Emily Dorsey, Madelyn James, Gail Nelson, Donna Nylander

I. Approval of Minutes

October 29, 2013 minutes amended and approved.

II. Standards Document

A. Discussion of changes

The subcommittee reviewed the document and made final edits. Edits included: 1) ensuring that the verification process does not hinge on a child with disabilities or special needs being in the classroom; 2) that the assessor may interview a parent about their experience with the program and the inclusion of their child (not mandatory); 3) self-assessment will include information around how the classroom is set-up for inclusion and how instruction is individualized; and 4) the definition of “disabilities” will include a 504 plan to account for discrepancies across districts (one district may issue an IEP for a child while another district may issue a 504 plan for that same child.)

B. Approval of document

- a. The subcommittee unanimously approved the document.

III. Training Document

A. Discussion of changes

The subcommittee made additional edits to this document. Edits included: 1) changing “Project Choices” to “Early Choices”; 2) “STAR NET,” not “STARNET”; and 3) adding the Health & Disabilities Advocates toolkit to the list of available face-to-face trainings. We will explore if/how the IL Action for Children’s Spring into Action’s conference may include a presentation on this award.

B. Approval of document

- a. The subcommittee unanimously approved the document.

III. Recommendations

A. Standards

The subcommittee made final edits to this document. Edits included removing *random* on-site verification and assessors, not validators, will do the on-site verification.

The subcommittee will work to pilot the standards with three volunteer programs.

B. Training

The subcommittee suggested that training supports need to be put in place to support this Award of Excellence. Training supports include distance learning opportunities, as well as convening another subcommittee or workgroup that will determine whether the content for various trainings is at least 50% inclusion-centered. In addition, Gateways to Opportunity Registry will need to develop its own approval process for trainings that meet the standards for this Award. Ultimately, a committee will need to be responsible for on-going review of trainings for this Award; someone from Gateways to Opportunity Registry should be included.

We also need to consider developing training for programs on how to apply for this Award. Maybe STAR NET, EI and Early Choices can work on this together.

Our recommendations will include support for 1-2 individuals to attend the training on the Inclusive Classroom Profile; these individuals will then develop a training for IL programs on how to use the Inclusive Classroom Profile.

IV. Next Steps - Timelines and responsibilities

Angelica will create a cover page for these recommendations.

This subcommittee has completed the Governor’s Award of Excellence for the Inclusion of Children with Special Needs. This subcommittee will schedule a future meeting time and discuss other goals they had identified in March-April 2013.